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From *Thursday* February 5th to *Monday* February 9th . 1684.

Whitehall February 6th . 1684.

On *Monday* last in the Morning our late Gracious Sovereign KING *CHARLES* the Second, was seized with a violent Fit, by which His Speech and Sences were for some time taken from him; but upon the immediate application of fitting Remedies, he returned to such in condition as gave some hopes of his Recovery till *Wednesday* night, at which time the Disease returning upon him with greater violence, He expired this day about Noon. Upon which the Privy Council assembling, His present Majesty made a most Gracious Declaration to them, and caused all the Lords and others of His late Majesties Privy Council that were then present to be Sworn of His Privy Council, and ordered a Proclamation to be Published signifying His Majesties Pleasure, That all Men being in Office of Government at the Decease of the late King, shall so continue till His Majesties farther Direction. And in the Afternoon the KING was Proclaimed before *White-Hall-Gate*, at *Temple-Bar*, and the *Royal Exchange* with the usual Solemnity.

Whereas *it hath pleased Almighty God to call to his Mercy our late Sovereign Lord King CHARLES the Second of Blessed Memory, by whose Decease, the Imperial Crowns of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, are solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Prince JAMES Duke of York and Albany, His said late Majesties only Brother and Heir, We therefore the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm, being here assisted with those of His late Majesties Privy Council, with numbers of other Principal Gentlemen of quality, with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, do now hereby with one full Voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart, Publish and Proclaim, That the High and Mighty Prince JAMES the Second is new by the Death of our late Sovereign of Memory, become our only Lawful, Lineal and Rightful Liege Lord, JAMES the Second, by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To whom we do acknowledge all Faith and constant Obedience with all hearty and humble Affection: Beseeching God by whom Kings do Reign, to bless the Royal King JAMES the Second with long and happy Years to Reign over us.*

God Save King *JAMES* the Second.

W. Cant.

Guilford C. S.

Rochester P.

Halyfax C.P.S

Norfolk

Somerset

Albermarle

Beaufore

Shrewsbury

Kent

Lumley

Huntingdon

Pembroke

Salisbury

Bridgwater

Westmorland

Manchester

Peterborow

Chesterfield

Sunderland

Scarsdale

Clarendon

Bathe

Craven

Ailesbury

Litchfield

Feversham

Nottingham

Berkely

Morray

Middleton

Fauconberg

Newport

Weymouth

Clifford

H. London

N. Durham

Tho. Rossens

North and Gray

W. Maynard

N. Cornwallis

Arundell

Godolphin

Drummond

J. Ernle

Tho. Chicheley

L. Jenkins.

JAMES R.

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God lately to call unto His infinite Mercy the most High and Mighty Prince King *CHARLES* the Second of most blessed Memory, the Kings Majesties most dear, and most entirely beloved Brother, by whose Decease the Authority and Power of the most part of the Officers and Places of Jurisdiction and Government within this Realm, and in the Realm of *Ireland* did cease and fail, the Sovereign Person failing from whom the same were derived. The Kings most Excellent Majesty in His Princely Wisdom and Care of the reserving to His own judgment hereafter, the Reformation and Redress of any Abuses in Mis-Government, upon due knowledge and Examination thereof) is pleased, and hath so expressly signified, That all Persons that at the time of the Decease of the late King His dearly beloved Brother, were duely and lawfully Possessed of, or Invested in any Office, or Place of Authority or Government, either Civil or Military, within this Realm of *England*, or in the Realm of *Ireland*, or in any other His Majesties Dominions belonging thereunto; And namely, all Presidents, Lieutenants, Vice Presidents, Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Deputy Lieutenants, Commissioners of Muster, Justices of Peace, and all other in place of Government, either Meaner or Superior, as aforesaid; And all other Officers and Ministers, whose Interests and Estates in their Offices are determined, or ceased by the means aforementioned, shall be and shall hold themselves continued in the said Places and Offices, as formerly they held and enjoyed the same, until His Majesties Pleasure be further known.

And that in the mean while, for the Preservation of the Peace, and necessary Proceedings in Matters of Justice, and for the Safety and Service of the State; All the said Persons of whatever Degree or

Condition may not fail, every one severally, according to his Place, Offices, or Charge, to proceed in the Performance and Execution of All Duties thereunto belonging, as formerly appertained unto them, and every of them while the Late Kings Majesty was living.

And further His Majesty doth hereby Will and Command all and singular His Highness Subjects of what Estate, or Degree, they or any of them be, to be Aiding, Helping and Assisting, and at the Commandment of the said Officers and Minister, in the Performance and Execution of the said Officers and Places, as they and every of them render His Majesties Displeasure, and will answer for the contrary at their uttermost perils.

And further His Majesties Will and Pleasure and express Commandment is, That all Orders and Directions Made or Given by the Lords of the Privy Council of the late King, in His Life time shall be Obeyed and Performed by all and every Person & Persons, and all and every Thing and Things to be done thereupon, shall Proceed as Fully and as amply as the same should have been Obeyed or Done, in the Life of the said late King His Majesties most Dearly and Entirely beloved Brother.

Given at the Court at *Whitehall* the sixth Day of *February*, In the first Year of His Majesties Reign of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland*.

God Save the KING.

His Majesty at His first Sitting in His Privy-Council, was Graciously Pleased to Express Himself in this manner:

My Lords,

Before I Enter upon any other Business, I think fit to say something to You. Since it hath pleased Almighty God to Place me in this Station, and I am now to Succeed To Good and Gracious a King, Brother, I think it fit to Declare to you that I will endeavour to follow His Example, and most especially in that of His Great Clemency and Tenderness to His People I have been reported to be a Man for Arbitrary Power: but that is not the only Story has been made of Me; and I shall make it my Endeavour to Preserve this Government, both in Church and State as it is now by Law Established. I know the Principles of the Church of *England* are for Monarchy, and the Members of it have shewed themselves Good and Loyal Subjects, therefore I shall always take care to Defend and Support it. I know too that the Laws of *England* are sufficient to make the King as Great a Monarch as I can wish; And as I shall never Depart from the Just Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, so I shall never Invade any Mans Property. I have often heretofore ventured My Life in Defence of this Nation; And I shall still go as far as any Man in Preserving it in all its Just Rights and Liberties.

Whereupon the Lords of the Council were humble Suiters to His Majesty, That those His Gracious expressions might be made Publick; which His Majesty did Order accordingly.

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